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Subject: Letter-Bern Archambault			Date

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

"Collaboration, long moribund, breathed its last in Vichy this morning. as a policy regulating relations in France between victor and vanquished. Coercion has replaced it openly after having dominated the situation covertly for many months. Joseph DARNAND, aged 47, well described as 'an adventurer with plenty of guts but no scruples' came forth as the real ruler of France under the Germans — a combination of Himmler and Quisling

"DARNAND is above both Laval and Petain as 'Secretary for the Maintenance of Order', disposing not only of the police, gendarmery, mobile guard and secret service, but also of the militia in the southern zone, and in the northern zone, of all private armies formed by such ultra-collaborationists as Marcel Deat, Jacques Doriot and Marcel Bucard.

...
"By the irony of fate, Laval himself installed the new regime during the week-end. He convened in Vichy all police intendants and many prefects and other executives to whom he formally introduced DARNAND 'who has my entire confidence in the redoubtable task he has assumed at a particularly critical time.' Then DARNAND spoke and made it clear that he holds the whip. The burden of his address was 'my authority', 'my desires', 'my intentions.' He stressed the 'mission of my militia' which is political, national and social.' He did not say, though it is notorious, that the militiamen (are) now known as the 'blackbirds from Vichy...'

...
"Be that as it may, France today is prepared for a pitiless purge. In short, it is clear that DARNAND has been chosen to stifle all opposition before the United Nations open a second front on the western bastion of Fortress Europe ...

"The situation remains dominated by military necessities for which reason the German High Command may deem it advisable to take complete charge in France, should the DARNAND experiment fail to answer its requirements."

THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION PERTINENT
TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT.

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